

#170 Never Judge Individuals by Their Metaphysical Convictions...

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Although I hold a firm belief in not judging individuals by their religion, I often find myself assessing others based on their spirituality, especially when it comes to Christians. This stems from my observation that many Christians around me are quick to judge other religions. It's as if they've forgotten that they're not Jews but rather Gentiles, just like everyone else.

I have faith in the Bible—not just in what I read, but also in the understanding I've gained through personal reflection and guidance from God. I believe in Jesus with unwavering faith, yet I don't conform to the rules of Christian religion, nor am I bound by pastors or the church's authority. My belief in God emerged from my own experiences and the ways I healed through divine guidance, not merely because I was raised in a Christian household.

I strongly believe that spirituality cannot be forced upon someone. While one might be compelled to read the Bible, attend church, or participate in religious events, true spirituality arises from a personal, inner connection with God. Additionally, I firmly believe there is no intermediary between us and God—no messengers, pastors, or anyone else stands between our relationship with the divine.

People often express their grievances with pastors or religious leaders, to which I often respond with disbelief. Why should anyone feel that God won't listen to them directly? Don't we have the faith to approach our Father in prayer? While some argue that having others pray for us adds strength, my question is: why is that necessary? Only we truly understand our struggles, and only we can fully articulate our pain when asking for God's guidance. Others can offer sympathy, but rarely can they reach the depths of empathy required to comprehend our suffering. God hears the sincerity of our needs and the strength of our faith.

There is a significant distinction between asking someone to pray for us and others offering to pray out of genuine concern for our sorrow. Personally, I often refer to myself as an atheist, not because I reject the existence of God, but because I refuse to be confined to a label of religious identity. My decision to stop reading the Bible or praying stems from an ongoing personal conflict between myself and God. However, this does not imply that I lack faith or deny the presence of God. On the contrary, I firmly believe in the biblical verse, "Faith, hope and love—the greatest of these is love."

When people possess hope and faith yet fail to extend love, judge others, or harbor animosity simply because others hold different beliefs or faiths, they miss the essence of being human. True spirituality is not just about faith and hope in God but in how we love and treat others. If we lack humanity and the ability to embrace people as they are, regardless of their faith or lack thereof, we are not truly living a spiritual life.

I may have fallen short as a Christian, as God's child, or even in my spiritual journey. But I hold onto my humanity, and as a human, I know I embody compassion and empathy.